

1 Samuel 19 - Thursday, May 8th, 2014

- Two weeks ago, in chapter eighteen, we saw the hand of God's protection over David after several failed attempts by Saul to murder him.
- One would think that Saul would just give up on trying however; it's becoming quite clear that Saul possesses an evil and wicked tenacity.
- So much so, we're about to see Saul enlist his son Jonathan, as well as his servants, to carry out his next evil plot to have David murdered.

Charles Spurgeon - "Saul was now worse than ever, or he would not have spoken to others to aid him in a dastardly murder. When God leaves a man, the devil comes to him."

(1) Now Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David; but Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David. (2) So Jonathan told David, saying, "My father Saul seeks to kill you. Therefore please be on your guard until morning, and stay in a secret *place* and hide. (3) And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you *are*, and I will speak with my father about you. Then what I observe, I will tell you."

- Couple of thoughts on these three verses, the first of which is Jonathan's remarkable response to his father the king, and this on two fronts.
- First, I find it remarkable that, in spite of all he may have been subjected to, his father, or his father's servants did not unduly influence him.
- By that I mean, while it's doubtless that Jonathan heard many rumors and false accusations concerning David, he remained loyal to David.

- The second thought has to do with how Jonathan knew he'd have to choose to obey God over his own father, as the authority in his life.
- Actually, this answers an often-asked question of whether or not there's ever a time when we are to disobey the governing laws of the land.
- The simple answer is "yes," there does come a time, like here in this case with Jonathan, when obeying man requires one to disobey God.

Acts 5:27-29 NIV Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. (28) "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." (29) Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

- One more thought before we move on to verse four; I find it interesting that Jonathan not only refuses to kill David, he helps protect David.
- Lest we think there's little or no application to us in the sense that no one has commanded us to murder anybody, we need to think again.
- Here's why, we all have the propensity to commit murder in our heart and we can also assassinate someone's character with our tongues.

Matthew 5:21-22 NIV "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' (22) But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

James 3:2-9 NIV We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. (3) When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. (4) Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. (5) Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. (6) The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell. (7) All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man, (8) but no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. (9) With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness.

(4) Thus Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father, and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant, against David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his works *have been* very good toward you. (5) For he took his life in his hands and killed the Philistine, and the LORD brought about a great deliverance for all Israel. You saw *it* and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood, to kill David without a cause?"

- What Jonathan does here is nothing short of amazing in that he carefully and probably even prayerfully crafted his words ever so perfectly.
- The reason I say that is he seems to have keen discernment by virtue of how he reminds Saul he rejoiced when David killed the Philistine.
- In other words, he discerned that his father may have become suspicious of David's motives being to kill Saul and take his throne as king.

(6) So Saul heeded the voice of Jonathan, and Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be killed." (7) Then Jonathan called David, and Jonathan told him all these things. So Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as in times past.

- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that the hand of God's protection is over David in spite of Saul's plans.
- This seems to be the common thread that's woven into the fabric of David's young life from the time he's anointed king to when he is king.
- The reason I point this out is that it speaks to how God will always protect us from the enemy in spite of his many attempts to destroy us.

(8) And there was war again; and David went out and fought with the Philistines, and struck them with a mighty blow, and they fled from him. (9) Now the distressing spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing *music* with *his* hand. (10) Then Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul's presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So David fled and escaped that night.

- Well, here we go again, except this time will be the last time David returns to the palace until Saul dies and he's king some 20-years later.
- This because, David now realizes that Saul's envious and murderous rampage against him has no bounds, and Saul's word has no value.
- Though he knows full well God has and will continue to keep him safe, it still requires he be shrewd as a serpent and harmless as a dove.

Charles Spurgeon - "Little ...did Saul's oath bind him. He was never in a good frame of mind long tougher. Envy cannot be quiet. ...We are safe anywhere while the Lord has work for us to do. Be it ours to live with the harp in our hand, praising God and blessing our fellow-men, and we shall be preserved from the javelins of our foes."

(11) Saul also sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning. And Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed." (12) So Michal let David down through a window. And he went and fled and escaped.

- I suppose that Michal is to be commended here for choosing her husband over her father, instead of choosing her father over her husband.
- Truth be made known, this one principle of not leaving father and mother and cleaving has been the source of many problems in marriage.
- Simply put, when we get married, our parents should never come in between a husband and wife, especially using financial purse strings.

- By the way, it was during this time that David in praise to God had penned the words to the song found in the book of Psalms. Psalm 59.

Psalms 59:1-17 NKJV To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy." a Michtam of David When Saul Sent Men, and They Watched the House in Order to Kill Him. Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; Defend me from those who rise up against me. (2) Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, And save me from bloodthirsty men. (3) For look, they lie in wait for my life; The mighty gather against me, Not for my transgression nor for my sin, O LORD. (4) They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine. Awake to help me, and behold! (5) You therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, Awake to punish all the nations; Do not be merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah (6) At evening they return, They growl like a dog, And go all around the city. (7) Indeed, they belch with their mouth; Swords are in their lips; For they say, "Who hears?" (8) But You, O LORD, shall laugh at them; You shall have all the nations in derision. (9) I will wait for You, O You his Strength; For God is my defense. (10) My God of mercy shall come to meet me; God shall let me see my desire on my enemies. (11) Do not slay them, lest my people forget; Scatter them by Your power, And bring them down, O Lord our shield. (12) For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips, Let them even be taken in their pride, And for the cursing and lying which they speak. (13) Consume them in wrath, consume them, That they may not be; And let them know that God rules in Jacob To the ends of the earth. Selah (14) And at evening they return, They growl like a dog, And go all around the city. (15) They wander up and down for food, And howl if they are not satisfied. (16) But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; For You have been my defense And refuge in the day of my trouble. (17) To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; For God is my defense, My God of mercy.

(13) And Michal took an image and laid it in the bed, put a cover of goats' hair for his head, and covered it with clothes. (14) So when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He is sick." (15) Then Saul sent the messengers back to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him." (16) And when the messengers had come in, there was the image in the bed, with a cover of goats' hair for his head. (17) Then Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me like this, and sent my enemy away, so that he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go! Why should I kill you?'"

- While Michal's cleverness is admirable, her possession of an idol is abominable, such that this was thought to be her own household idol.
- I'm of the belief that this speaks to how either the husband and or the wife can have a much closer walk with the Lord than their mate does.
- Perhaps we need look no further than Michal's father Saul himself to explain it, though not excuse it, if he was a poor example in the home.

Charles Spurgeon - "We cannot admire Michal's deceit, nor yet her having idols in her house. She was Saul's daughter, and came of a bad stock. The Lord, however, overruled her love for David, so that the persecuted one escaped. God will preserve His own."

(18) So David fled and escaped, and went to Samuel at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth.

- This was the best thing that David could have done, and I would suggest that it's the best thing that we can do when in a similar situation.
- Namely, seeking out a godly man for godly counsel, especially when you're surrounded by so many ungodly people, not to mention Saul's.
- I would suggest that it's for this reason the pages of Holy Writ are replete with warning after warning about seeking a multitude of counsel.

Proverbs 11:14 NKJV Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Psalms 1:1 NKJV Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

(19) Now it was told Saul, saying, "Take note, David is at Naioth in Ramah!" (20) Then Saul sent messengers to take David. And when they saw the group of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as leader over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied. (21) And when Saul was told, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. Then Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also. (22) Then he also went to Ramah, and came to the great well that is at Sechu. So he asked, and said, "Where are Samuel and David?" And someone said, "Indeed they are at Naioth in Ramah." (23) So he went there to Naioth in Ramah. Then the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on and prophesied until he came to Naioth in Ramah. (24) And he also stripped off his clothes and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

- At the risk of an oversimplification, what God is doing is putting these unsanctified men into a sanctified state to protect David from Saul.
- I can't help but wonder how this must've been a tremendous encouragement to David to see God do this with men he probably knew well.
- The bottom line is God was confirming that He would override everything and everyone in order to fulfill the calling He had on David's life.